**Chapel of the Cardinal: altar containing a copy of the Virgin of Reggio. This fresco, which is traditionally attributed to Livio Agresti (c. 1500–c. 1580) was instead definitely painted during the time of Alessandro d'Este since the miracle which made the Virgin of Reggio famous only took place in 1596.**

ficent gifts for his friends: Titian, Federico Zuccari, Gerolamo Muziano, and Livio Agresti painted for him, Pierluigi da Palestrina was commissioned to compose for him, and poets such as Ariosto and Torquato Tasso were constant guests in his home. Yet Ippolito's involvement went further than supporting the art and artists of his day; he also put together great collections of sculpture, antique inscriptions, and all kinds of art objects which he used to decorate his various residences. All of them had to reflect both his taste and noble rank, as well as be fitting surroundings for his numerous entourage which was actually nothing less than a royal court.

In his native city of Ferrara, Ippolito d'Este owned the palaces of San Francesco, Belfiore, and a part of the Palazzo Paradiso. In France, he had commissioned Sebastiano Serlio to build a delightful residence at Fountainbleau for use during his frequent stays there. In Rome he held a lifetime lease on the Palace of Monte Giordano which he had decorated by a host of artists who embellished it with such pomp that even the Romans were awed by it. He also rented a villa at